Uphill Triumph Over GW Moves Wakefield to Top

1-A POTOMAC	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wakefield	7	1	11	1
GW	6	2	12	3
Williams	3	4	9	7
W-L	3	4	7	7
Hammond	2	5	5	7
Yorktown	1	6	7	7

Wakefield High School's ability to successfully wage an uphill basketball fight has put the Warriors in the Virginia Group 1-A Potomac District lead for the first time in nearly a month.

The Warriors, who defeated host George Washington 54-50 last night to replace the Presidents in first place, can clinch a tie by defeating Yorktown Tuesday.

Wakefield's only other remaining district game is not until Feb. 16 against Williams. GW has three district games left.

Although Wakefield outscored GW 21-6 in the fourth quarter, its key rally might have been a six-point burst just before halftime.
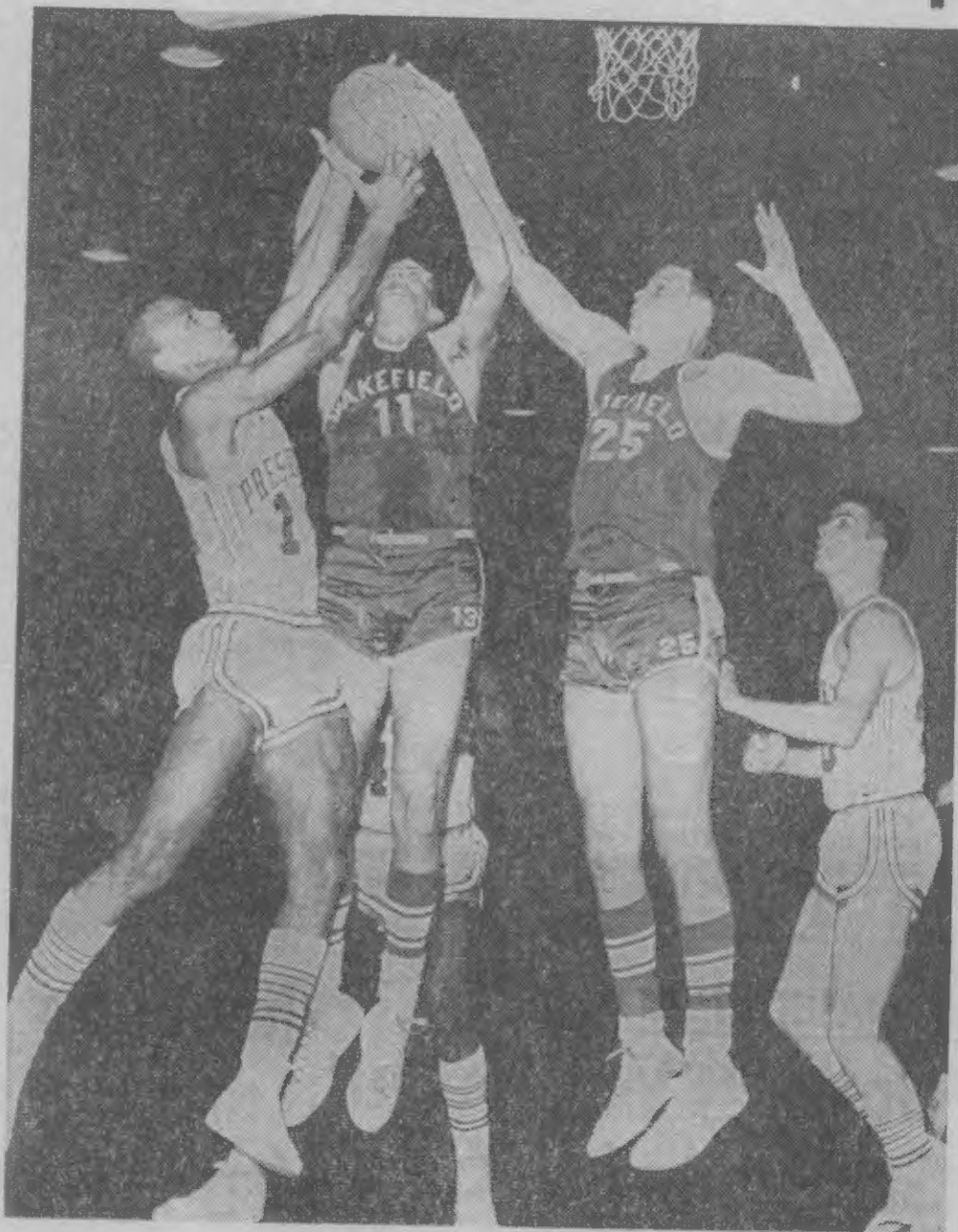
GW raced to a 26-9 lead midway through the second period, but six straight points by Wakefield cut the Presidents' halftime margin to 31-21.

"That gave us new life," said Jim Vandell, the Wakefield coach. The victory, Wakefield's fourth straight, avenged a 67-58 loss to GW on Jan. 12.

Wakefield's fourth-period rally earned the Warriors a 48-48 tie on a one-hander by Bruce McLennan with 3½ minutes to play. After almost two minutes without a score, Jim Warns hit a layup to give the Warriors their first lead, 50-48.

Earl Quash pulled GW back into a tie with two free throws at 49 seconds, but Wakefield got its winning points on a driving layup by Bob Brewer with 33 seconds left and two free throws by Harold Black with 13 seconds to go.

Wakefield	G	F	T		GW	G	F	T
McLennan	5	2	12		Gipson	3	0	6
Brewer	1	0	2		Ross	1	1	3
Warns	4	4	12		Allen	1	0	2
W. Somers	1	4	6		Perkins	3	0	6
Allen	1	0	2		Wash	5	2	12
Black	2	4	8		Barnes	1	0	2
Moore	1	0	2		Lambert	4	5	13
D. Somers	1	4	6		Brown	1	4	6
Dublin	1	0	2					
Rixse	0	0	0					
Totals	18	18	52			19	12	50

Halftime: GW, 31-21.

Lorenzo Barnes of George Washington successfully battles Steve Rixse (center) and Steve Allen of Wakefield for a rebound during last night's game at GW. Wakefield won 54-50.